augmentation system (SBAS) to support seamless air navigation over the Indian airspace;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its specific advantages;

(c) whether ionospheric studies and modelling ionosphere have been completed; and

(d) by when the new SBAS is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with the Airport Authority of India has undertaken a proof of concept Technology Demonstration System (TDS) for Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS).

(b) The TDS will have the necessary infrastructure in Space and on ground to demonstrate the concept. This will test the seamless navigation concept.

(c) Ionospheric and Tropospheric Modelling studies have been initiated.

(d) The operational SBAS will be planned after successful implementation of the Technology Demonstration System.

Meteorological Satellite

3109. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India successfully launched first meteorological satellite into orbit;

(b) if so, the features thereof and the benefits that would accrue to the country from this satellite;

(c) the extent of success achieved and whether this would enable the country to undertake a mission to the moon;

(d) whether the country is developing such satellites for other countries also; and

(e) if so, the names of the countries and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Meteorological Satellite (METSAT), the recently launched dedicated satellite for meteorology, carries a Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) designed to obtain images of the earth in the visible, thermal infrared and water vapour channels of the electromagnetic spectrum, enabling continuous, round-the-clock monitoring of the weather system. The Data Relay Transponder (DRT) in the satellite enables collection of meteorological data from remote and inaccessible areas over land. Thus, METSAT provides better data for weather forecasting.

(c) The achievements of the mission are as follows:

— The geo-synchronous launch capability of PSLV has been successfully demonstrated.

— For the first time, a dedicated meteorology satellite which provides more clear satellite images and data and also meteorological data from remote and inaccessible areas, round-the-clock for weather predictions, has been orbitted.

Out of many possible approaches, our investigation envisages a lunar mission using PSLV through geo-synchronous transfer orbit which has been clearly established in PSLV-C4.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Abandoned projects

3110. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 97 projects in different sectors like power, fertilizer, petroleum, etc. worth Rs. 1,72,184 crore have been abandoned since October last year; and

(b) if so, the sector-wise details of these projects and reasons therefor?